

SENATE RESOLUTION 200

By Stanley

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Mr. William “Jake” Gainer for meritorious service.

WHEREAS, our nation was conceived by individuals who were willing to sacrifice their personal safety and concerns to ensure our individual and collective freedom, and the Volunteer State is especially proud to be the home of so many valiant men and women who have performed above and beyond the call of duty; and

WHEREAS, thousands of individuals have continued this time-honored tradition of volunteerism through service in the United States Army; and

WHEREAS, Mr. William “Jake” Gainer served with courage and gallantry and deserves proper recognition for his heroism as a member of the United States Army during World War II; and

WHEREAS, between his enlistment in December of 1941 and his discharge in October of 1945, Mr. Gainer served with honor, valor, and bravery ; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Gainer surmounted the general lack of supplies and preparation that beset the United States’ initial war efforts and succeeded at both Basic Training at Fort Benning, Georgia, and Armored training in Fort Knox, Kentucky, where the military trained using antiquated World War I weapons and technology; and

WHEREAS, he dutifully served under General George S. Patton in the Second Armored Division, nicknamed “Hell on Wheels,” in numerous missions that proved integral to the success of the Allies in Europe; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Gainer fought in Operation Torch, which sent the Second Armored Division to battle in Casablanca before daybreak on November 8, 1942, a mission which greatly contributed to the Allies’ success in defeating the Axis forces in Africa; and

WHEREAS, he then landed on the island of Sicily on July 19, 1943, as part of Operation Husky’s mission to clear the Mediterranean Sea of Axis air and naval forces and destabilize

Italian leader Benito Mussolini, the monumental success of which would not have been possible without the astonishing valor of men like Mr. Gainer; and

WHEREAS, Jake Gainer fought in the Allied campaign across Western Europe to free the continent from Axis control, initiated by the infamous D-Day landing at Normandy on June 6, 1944; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Gainer further distinguished himself in the long and harrowing Battle of the Bulge in December of 1944 and January of 1945; he and his fellow soldiers withstood the advancing enemy in subzero temperatures and deep snow, helping the Allies win the largest and bloodiest battle of the notoriously violent war; and

WHEREAS, his undaunted efforts across Western Europe with the Second Armored Division helped cripple German forces, and the great alacrity with which he carried out his duties helped earn the division distinction as the first American unit to enter the German capital city of Berlin; and

WHEREAS, Jake Gainer was present for the monumental Potsdam Conference when the famed victors Franklin Roosevelt, Winston Churchill, and Joseph Stalin agreed on the historic treaties that divided Germany and Berlin; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Gainer earned significant recognition for his herculean efforts and strength of character in World War II, earning six Bronze Stars, three Bronze Arrowheads, the Fourragere of the Belgian Croix de Guerre, a Certificate of Merit for Meritorious and Outstanding Military Duty, and the Good Conduct Medal; and

WHEREAS, upon his return to the United States, he demonstrated his intellectual talent and resourcefulness by utilizing the GI Bill to attend Glenville College in West Virginia; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Gainer labored with probity for thirty-one years as an employee of Owens-Illinois, Inc.; and

WHEREAS, an honorable member of this country's Greatest Generation, Jake Gainer performed his duties with the utmost bravery, skill, dedication, and professionalism, and his service can only be categorized as outstanding; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we hereby honor and commend Mr.

William "Jake" Gainer for meritorious service in the United States Army during World War II and offer our thanks for a difficult job well done.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.